

Mcacham
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REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the notification of allowable subject matter, i.e., that claims 1-5, 12-15, and 19-24 are allowed; and claims 7-11 and 16-18 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-5, 7-16, and 18-24 are pending in the application. Claims 7-11, 16, and 18 have been amended to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, but have not been amended substantively. Claim 17 has been canceled without prejudice. The amendments are fully supported by the application as originally filed.

Claims 7-11 and 16-18 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because claims 7-11 were not correlated to the phrase "at least a portion of the metallic barrier comprises a noble metal" of claim 1, and claims 16-18 were not correlated to the phrase "a barrier material including at least a noble metal" of claim 12. As amended, claims 7-11 recite various elements of the Applicant's claimed invention "in contact with the portion of the metallic barrier that comprises the noble metal" (see, e.g., claim 8). As amended, claims 16 and 18 recite elements of the Applicant's claimed invention "in contact with the noble metal of the barrier" (see, e.g., claim 16), thereby obviating the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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